IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method comprising the steps of:

receiving an input retrieval keyword from a client side;

accessing a dictionary database based on an input retrieval keyword;

extracting a plurality of additional keywords from a dictionary database as a function of the input retrieval keyword,

wherein, in response to the input retrieval keyword, a plurality of additional keywords are extracted comprising keywords corresponding to a person's name and keywords corresponding to a possible misused used character in the input retrieval keyword,

~~wherein each of the plurality of additional keywords are related to the input retrieval keyword;~~

accessing an electronic-program-guide database that stores electronic-program-guide data, as a function of the ~~first keyword~~ input retrieval keyword and ~~a~~ the plurality of additional keywords; and

downloading only electronic-program-guide data based on ~~the extracted relevant keyword information~~ the plurality of additional keywords and the input retrieval keyword from the electronic-program-guide data stored in said electronic-program-guide database ~~and the input retrieval keyword~~.

2.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein said dictionary database stores words to be used as retrieval keywords, and relevant keywords relevant to said words to be used as retrieval keywords.

3.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein when the retrieval keyword is the name of a person, the relevant-keyword information is one of or a combination of a nickname of said person, the full name of said person, the given name of said person, the name of a group relevant to said person, and another well-known name of said person.

4.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein when the retrieval keyword is a word written in hiragana characters and/or katakana characters used in Japanese writing, the relevant-keyword information includes a word written in kanji characters used in Japanese writing or in characters relevant to said kanji characters.

5.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein when the retrieval keyword corresponds to one of misused character keywords stored in a misused keyword database which are caused by possible input mistakes, only the relevant-keyword information is used to perform retrieval.

6.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein the retrieval keyword and the relevant-keyword information are interrelated to each other.

7.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein when part of a word to be used as the retrieval keyword is input, said word to be used as the retrieval keyword and the relevant-keyword information are extracted from a retrieval-keyword database storing previously input keywords in a predetermined order.

8.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein when the retrieval keyword belongs to a particular genre, the relevant-keyword information belongs to a genre different from said particular genre.

9.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 8, wherein when the particular genre is relevant to cooking, the different genre is relevant to cooks.

10.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 8, wherein when the particular genre is relevant to place names, the different genre is relevant to one of or a combination of neighboring city names, country names, and regional names.

00443351

　　　　　11.　　　(Currently Amended)　An electronic-program-guide retrieval system comprising:

　　　　　a data server including an electronic-program-guide database storing program information of an electronic program guide;

　　　　　a dictionary database for storing a plurality of retrieval keywords and a plurality of additional keywords relevant to said retrieval keywords; and

　　　　　a client module comprising:

　　　　　　　input means for inputting said retrieval keywords;

　　　　　　　access means for accessing said dictionary database as a function of said retrieval keywords and the plurality of additional keywords;

　　　　　　　when receiving the input retrieval keyword, extracting means for extracting the plurality of additional keywords from the dictionary database as a function of the input retrieval keyword.

　　　　　　　wherein, in response to the input retrieval keyword, a plurality of additional keywords are extracted comprising keywords corresponding to a person's name and keywords corresponding to a possible misused used character in the input retrieval keyword;

　　　　　　　access means for accessing electronic-program-guide database based said input retrieval keyword and the plurality of additional keywords; and the additional keywords; and

　　　　　　　downloading means for downloading only electronic-program-guide data based on the plurality of additional keywords the extracted relevant keyword information and the input retrieval keyword.

00443351

12.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein said dictionary database is provided at the client side.

13.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein said dictionary database is provided at the data server side.

14.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein said client downloads and stores the program information.

15.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein said client accesses a necessary part of said data server via a routing server storing information on routes to the parts of said data server.

16.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein:

said dictionary database stores misused keywords caused by possible input mistakes; and

when the input keyword corresponds to one of the misused keywords, only the relevant-keyword information is used to perform retrieval.

17.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein when the retrieval keyword is a word written in hiragana characters and/or katakana characters used in Japanese writing, the relevant-keyword

00443351

information includes a word written in kanji characters used in Japanese writing or in characters

relevant to said kanji characters.

18.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system

according to claim 11, wherein said dictionary database stores previously input keywords so that

the input keywords are included in the relevant-keyword information, and the stored keywords

are arranged in order of frequency of use.

19.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system

according to claim 11, wherein the program information includes data relevant to movie

information.

20.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system

according to claim 11, wherein the program information includes data relevant to drama

information.

21.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system

according to claim 11, wherein the program information includes data relevant to place names.

22.   (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system

according to claim 11, wherein the program information includes data relevant to the names of

dishes.

00443351

      23. (Currently Amended) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system comprising:

      a data server including a plurality of databases, one of which is a television electronic-program-guide database for storing program information of an electronic program guide containing only keywords determined by an EPG provider as retrieval keywords;

      a client having a certain data storage capacity comprising input means for inputting a retrieval keyword for retrieving the program information;

      a dictionary database provided at the data server side and the client side for storing retrieval keywords and relevant keywords relevant to said retrieval keywords,

      wherein, in response to the input retrieval keyword, a plurality of additional keywords are extracted comprising keywords corresponding to a person's name and keywords corresponding to a possible misused used character in the input retrieval keyword; and

      a routing server having an access unit for accessing selectively said database and route information,

      wherein when retrieval keyword is input, and relevant-keyword information relevant to the retrieval keyword input by said client is extracted from said dictionary database provided at the client side, said client sends the relevant-keyword to said routing server and accesses one of the databases of said data server via said routing server storing information on routes to the parts of said data server, and said routing server accesses the database by selecting the route to the database so that retrieval by accessing the program information is performed based on the extracted relevant-keyword information and the input retrieval keyword, and

      wherein an apparatus including an access unit for accessing said data server and an input unit for inputting a retrieval keyword, can perform retrieval on the EPG data by using

the input retrieval keyword and the plurality of additional keywords ~~relevant keywords~~ extracted

from said dictionary database at the server side.